

**Testimony to the House Health Policy Committee**  
**On HB 5711, 5712 and 5713**  
**By Lori Lamerand, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Mid and South MI**  
**June 7, 2012**

I'm Lori Lamerand, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan.

I come to you today to urge you to carefully consider the implications of passing a major overhaul of the MI public health code without careful analysis of its impact on Michigan women. These bills have been fast-tracked to meet a strictly political agenda while threatening to end women's access to safe, legal abortions.

**Planned Parenthood works every day to keep women healthy**

- More than 90,000 women, men and teens in Michigan count on Planned Parenthood annually for a broad range of health services, including life-saving cancer screenings, birth control, testing and treatment of STDs, breast cancer screening, pap tests, sexual health education and information.
- Nationally, one in five women turn to Planned Parenthood at some time in their lives for professional, non-judgmental and confidential care. That includes women you all know and love.
- Planned Parenthood does more every single day to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and to keep women healthy than any other organization in the world.

**Planned Parenthood's highly trained doctors and nurses always insist on the highest standards of patient care and have rigorous safety guidelines in place.**

- Reproductive health services are among the safest and most commonly sought forms of care in the United States, and health centers that specialize in reproductive care are among the nation's most rigorously regulated and scrutinized health care providers.
- Planned Parenthood's medical standards and guidelines- by which we must abide- are informed by the most trusted professional and scientific organizations worldwide, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the United States Preventative Services Task Force, and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Our record of safety proves them to be effective.

**This bill could ban abortion statewide**

- The people behind these regulations want to shut down high quality reproductive health care providers. It's part of their real intent to make abortion illegal in this state, no exceptions.

- It is important that abortion remain a safe and legal medical procedure for a woman to consider if and when she needs it. Women's and families lives are complicated. Decisions about whether to choose adoption, to end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family, and her faith.
- Women rightfully, don't turn to politicians for advice about mammograms, prenatal care, or cancer treatments. Politicians should not be involved in a woman's personal medical decisions about her pregnancy.

**It's clear this bill is about politics, not women's health-- the intent is to move one step closer to make abortion illegal in this state, no exceptions**

- The authors of this bill don't want you to know the truth about the elements contained in its 45 pages. It is being fast-tracked with little time for lawmakers to read and understand it let alone to provide time for notice for public input.
- The omnibus bill mandates excessive, burdensome requirements for all health care centers that provide abortions—even though they are already bound by existing state regulations.
  - For example, providers that only offer medication abortion would be required to make major renovations to their health centers to meet the requirements for surgical operating rooms, even though the procedure only involves dispensing an oral medication.
- If the state legislature cared about women and children, they would focus on correcting the poor health outcomes for women and families in MI, not upon standing between women and the doctors they trust.

Planned Parenthood believes in regulations and standards of care necessary to protect the health and safety of its patients. However, we don't support politicians imposing political constraints on patient care.

Under these regulations, women could be denied critical access to basic health care like annual exams and cancer screenings while health centers are forced to build surgical operating rooms in order to administer safe, legal contraception.

Under these regulations, a woman who discovers a fetal anomaly at 21 weeks - even one that is fatal to the fetus- will be forced to carry the pregnancy to term despite her doctor's professional recommendation that the pregnancy be terminated. This would be true even if the woman was a victim of rape or incest.

Acting on this set of very technical bills without careful examination and understanding of their ramifications is the worst kind of legislative action. The people of MI demand more from you.